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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 COME-00 HEW-06 RSC-01 /017 R

DRAFTED BY TREASURY:SHAYES:GLG
APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN
COMMERCE - J. HEARN
FDA - R. SHELTON
TREASURY - G. L. PARSKY
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P 032342Z JAN 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SA, US

SUBJECT: U.S. SAUDI JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION:SAG REQUEST FOR STANDARDS ADVISOR

REF: (A) JIDDA 6899 (B) STATE 264341

1. THIS IS FOLLOW-ON RESPONSE TO REF A.

2. AS STATED IN INTERIM RESPONSE, REF B, MR. A. ALLAN BATES IS AVAILABLE TO SERVE AS STANDARDS ADVISOR BEGINNING MID-LATE JANUARY. WHEN EMPLOYED AT NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS (NBS) MR. BATES SERVED AS CHIEF OF BUILDING RESEARCH DIVISION AND, LATER, AS CHIEF OF OFFICE OF ENGINEERING STANDARDS SERVICES. DURING NBS EMPLOYMENT, HE ASSISTED IN DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL STANDARDS PROGRAMS IN BRAZIL AND ALGERIA. HE IS WIDELY TRAVELED AND FAMILIAR WITH SEVERAL MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT MR. BATES WOULD (A) SURVEY EXISTING SASO STANDARDS AND PLANS FOR FUTURE SASO WORK (B) PROVIDE ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING ROLE USG CAN PLAY IN REFINING AND/OR IMPLEMENTING OVERALL STANDARDS PLAN (C) PROVIDE
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RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING FUTURE WORK OF U.S. ADVISORS

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AND EXPERTS (D) PROVIDE ADVICE ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SAUDI STANDARDS AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.

3. FDA HAS NOMINATED MR. LOWRIE M. BEACHAM TO CONDUCT 2-3 WEEK SURVEY OF PRESENT FOOD CONTROL PROGRAMS AND FOOD STANDARDS AND TO PREPARE REPORT ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE. MR. BEACHAM'S DISCIPLINE IS CHEMISTRY. HE HAS DEVOTED MORE THAN 35 YEARS AT FDA IN THE STUDY OF FOOD COMPOSITION, PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY, DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PRODUCTS AND THE PROMULGATION OF STANDARDS AND RELATED PROGRAMS TO PROTECT CONSUMER INTERESTS. HE HAS DIRECTED AND PARTICIPATED IN FIELD INVESTIGATIONS AND PREPARATION AND EXAMINATION OF EXPERIMENTAL PACKS OF PROCESSING FOODS OF ALL KINDS.

4. DUE TO OTHER COMMITMENTS, MR. BEACHAM IS NOT ABLE TO BEGIN BEFORE EARLY FEBRUARY AND, THEREFORE, WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO TRAVEL WITH THE NBS REPRESENTATIVE. HOWEVER, SINCE THE TWO MEN WILL BE ADDRESSING DIFFERENT FACETS OF THE PROBLEM, IT IS NOT CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL THAT THEY TRAVEL TOGETHER. IT IS LIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE A PERIOD OF OVERLAP BETWEEN THE TWO TRIPS ALLOWING FOR DISCUSSIONS AND ANY COORDINATION DEEMED NECESSARY. ADDITIONALLY, TO FACILITATE A COORDINATED APPROACH TO THE STANDARDS ISSUE, EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO PUT BATES AND BEACHAM IN CONTACT WITH MR. KHOURY PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.

5. BOTH BATES AND BEACHAM COULD BE HIRED AS CONSULTANTS BY NBS AND FDA, RESPECTIVELY, AND SENT TO SAUDI ARABIA AS USG EMPLOYEES. IN SUCH CASE, CLERICAL, EDITORIAL AND TECHNICAL REVIEW SUPPORT WOULD BE AVAILABLE AND WOULD GIVE ELEMENT OF USG RESPONSIBILITY AND ENDORSEMENT OF REPORT. ALTERNATIVELY, THEY COULD CONTRACT DIRECTLY WITH SAG; IN CASE OF BEACHAM, FDA WOULD PREFER LATTER OPTION. FOR BATES AND BEACHAM, ESTIMATED COST EACH (BASED ON 30-DAY STAY) IS: SALARY $3,000; TRAVEL: $1,400 (COVERS ROUND TRIP WASH-RIYADH ONLY: OTHER INTERNAL TRAVEL ADDITIONAL); PER DIEM AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES: $1,600; ADMIN-ISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT COSTS: $2,640. TOTAL: $8,640. ACTUAL COST WILL VARY WITH ACTUAL LENGTH OF STAY.
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6. REQUEST SASO REACTION ASAP. SPECIFICALLY, INFORMATION ON PREFERRED METHOD OF CONTRACTING AND DESIRED VISIT DATES IS REQUIRED. KISSINGER

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